

Perfins on the Columbians: seven known patterns

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In January of last year, I asked *Bulletin* readers for help tracking down perfins on the Columbian issue of 1893.

Eight of you responded with information, copies of what you have, and other help. Special thanks goes to Bob Schwerdt, who graciously took the time to research previous *Bulletin* issues for reported instances of Columbians with perfins. As the flow of information over the course of this past year has finally stopped, I believe that it is time to share the results of the research.

Seven different patterns have been reported on the Columbians, with a total of 29 copies.

Three copies with questionable punches, possibly fiscal usages, were reported. Additionally, there was a reference of Columbians in a *Bulletin* article from May 1946 but no copy of this issue was available to this writer.

Here are the patterns reported—with the number of each in parentheses.

A60 (19) [1c (1); 2c (1); 3c (3); 4c (1); 5c (2); 6c (2); 8c (1); 10c (1); 15c (1); 30c (1); 50c (5)];

C47 (2) [8c (1); 10c (1)];

H54 (2) [30c (1); 50c (1)];

J56 (1) [\$5.00 (1)];

L129A (1) [3c (1)];

N41 (1) [4c (1)];

O75 (3) [1c (1); 3c (1); 15c (1)].

The J56 perfin has recently been recatalogued by the catalogue editor as being several different perfin patterns, but this differentiation was not known at the time the perfin was reported.

No covers other than the A60 shown in the January 2000 *Bulletin* were reported; however one perfin (an A60) was reported on a

reader have further information on this item?

Thank you to all who participated in this research.

Columbians with perfins were used legitimately, although somewhat later than one would expect for most postal issues. These perfin usages are certainly neither common nor do they seem philatelic in nature.

If any members can add to this information, we always welcome additional data. Please di-



piece with a San Francisco cancel.

Other instances of collectors having seen or heard of the existence of Columbians with perfins have been reported but were not included in my list because they could not be verified.

Pictured here is the most interesting item received by the author. It is described as a St Louis Newspaper Bulk Mailing punch, but that is all that is known. Does any

rect any either to me or to the editor.

New record album

Canadian member Kevin Kienlein (#3037) has a new record album out with 20 original oldtime fiddle tunes he wrote. There are Celtic, Irish, Scottish, jazzy and fun tunes. You can find out more by contacting Kevin by mail or checking out www.mp3.com/kevin_kienlein.